country and have obtained approval from the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the companies in private sector to which Government have granted approval to enter into seeds production; and

(c) whether Government propose to exercise any control on these companies to ensure quality production of seeds and availability at reasonable prices in the markets and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATIOIN IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b). private seed companies are not required to take approval for production and marketing of seeds except for MRTP- and FERA Companies. The name of the MRTP and FERA companies permitted for production and sale of seeds is attached. *(See* below)

(c) The MRTP and FERA companies are required to produce and sell only certified seeds. Thus, quality of seeds is governed as per the provisions specified in the Seeds Act, 1966 and Seed Rules made thereunder. There is no statutory control on sale price of seeds whether sold by the public sector or private sector companies.

Statement

The names of the MRTP I FERA Companies who have been permitted to operate in the seed sector.

MRTP companies

1. M/s Hindustan Lever Ltd.
2. M/s ITC Ltd.
3. M/s National Organic Chemicals & Industries Ltd.
4. M/s Hoechst India Ltd.
5. M/s J.K. Industries Ltd.
6. M/s J.K.B.M. Ltd.
7. M/s Rallis India Ltd.
8. M/s I.C.I. India Ltd.

FERA Companies

1. M/s Sandoz India Ltd.
2. M/s Cargil Seeds India Pvt. Ltd.

Action against hoarders, adulterators and blackmarketeers

682. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the State Governments to take stringent steps against hoarders, adulterators and blackmarketeers and also keep a check on prices;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps during the past few months to check the prices etc;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent the Government have put a control on price rise of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. State Governments / UT Administrations have been advised in this direction.

(b) to (d). Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices of essential commodities. Both long-term and short-term measures are being taken for the purpose. The measures taken by the Government broadly include steps to increase the production of essential commodities which are in short supply, effective procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains; strengthening of Public Distribution System, monitoring of price and availability situation; strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures; and augmenting

domestic supplies through imports wherever necessary, to check any abnormal rise in prices.

Apart from the measures on the Broad macro-economic front, specific measures have also been taken by Government in respect of particular essential commodities under pressure such as edible oils, pulses, tea, sugar and cement.

Corruption in railways

683. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints about large scale corruption particularly in the booking and parcel offices throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have since contemplated any action on the complaints;

(c) whether the corruption in the railways have increased during the past six-seven months since the present Government took over;

(d) if so, the details of such action taken during the past six months; and

(e) further steps proposed to be taken to curb corruption in the railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Complaints of malpractices are indeed received from time to time, including those pertaining to booking and parcel offices. These are investigated and appropriate action (including prosecution and disciplinary proceedings) taken against those found guirjy.

(c) to (e) Utmost importance is given to the eradication of mal-practices and corruption on the railways for which purpose vigilance activities have been intensified especially in the mass contact area (e.g. booking, reservation, parcels, goods and catering)

The vigilance activities include preventive steps such as information-gathering, simplification / modification of rules / procedures to reduce scope of corruption, surveillance, rotational transfers of officers-and staff on sensitive posts, pre-mature retirement of those whose integrity is doubtful and frequent checks. Other steps taken are speedier disposal of disciplinary proceedings, imposition of deterrent punishments in proven cases and large-scale involvement of staff, supervisory officials and public in the fight against corruption. There has been no evidence of increase in the corruption during the past 6-7 months. On the contrary, with the steps taken, there is greater vigilance (anti-corruption) consciousness now, both amongst the railwaymen and the public.

आवश्यक वस्तुओं के थोक और खुदरा मूल्य

684. **डा० अबरार अहमद खान:** क्या खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) नवम्बर 1989 में तथा 31 जुलाई, 1990 को आवश्यक वस्तुओं के थोक तथा खुदरा मूल्य क्या-क्या थे;

(ख) 31 जुलाई, 1990 को समाप्त हुये आठ माह में आवश्यक वस्तुओं के थोक मूल्य सूचकांक में नवम्बर, 1989 की तुलना में कितनी वृद्धि या कमी हुई और वृद्धि तथा कमी के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या निकट भविष्य में मूल्य सूचकांक के गिरने की कोई संभावना है और यदि हां, तो कब तक तथा सरकार इस संबंध में क्या ठोस कदम उठा रही है?

खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम पूजन पटेल): (क) 25 नवम्बर, 1989 और 1 अगस्त, 1990 को चुने हुए केन्द्रों पर चुनी हुई आवश्यक वस्तुओं के सप्ताह-अंत के थोक और खुदरा मूल्य दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण दिया गया है (देखिए परिशिष्ट 155, अनुपत्र संख्या 25)।

(ख) आर्थिक सलाहकार, उद्योग मंत्रालय द्वारा तैयार किया गया थोक मूल्य-सूचकांक 21.7.1990 को समाप्त हुए सप्ताह के लिए उपलब्ध है। 21.7.90 और 25.11.89 के बीच चुनी हुई आवश्यक वस्तुओं के थोक